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Kanesatake

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EVENTS LISTINGS
FOR ACTIVISTS



*Police attack Lesbian and Gay
protestors in Montréal*

Gay Community and Supporters Resist

Police Attacks: Montreal Cops Brutalize Gay/Lesbian Community

The reality of police violence has hit the Montreal lesbians and gays between the eyes, in the gut and on the back. Hundreds have come out in support of the community.

During a raid of a clandestine disco party in the wee hours of June

15, weary revellers were attacked as they tried to go home. Witnesses say at least two dozen cops removed their badges before marching on the crowd of about 300, clubbing them with nightsticks.

Others reported the police made several homophobic comments and targeted people of colour or those dressed flamboyantly. The police also threatened to shoot people running away while beating those who moved to slowly. By the end, eight people were arrested and charged with assaulting the police.

Once again the boys in blue are the object of rage from a community sick of being abused and subsequently silenced. The lesbian and gay community responded immediately in a big way with three protests in the days following the first attack.

The police reacted to the strength of the community with more brutality.

More trudgeon-wielding officers in riot gear wearing latex gloves but no

MOHAWK SOLIDARITY

At press time the stand-off between police and the Mohawk Nation continues at Kanesatake and Kahnawake. Rumours of impending invasion, the blocking of food and medical supplies to the Mohawk people, and various attempts to criminalize the resistance by Canadian government officials have failed to deter the widespread support for the Mohawk people and the continued defense of sovereign Native lands.

In Toronto the Canadian Alliance in Solidarity with Native Peoples and

other organizations in the African community have organized several demonstrations, rallies and vigils since our last issue. They have also been instrumental in collecting food donations to take down to Kanesatake. For people wishing to get involved in local support actions, call CASNP at 588-2712.

The Defense Fund for Mohawk Sovereignty, set up the day after the invasion, is still collecting funds to send to the Mohawk Nation. The

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SQUATTERS WAR IN HOLLAND

On May 27, 1990, 139 squatters gave themselves up to police after a 24 hour battle against some 600 riot cops (the cops had lost). The squatters were defending the Wolters-Noordhof Complex in downtown Groningen, a city in the north-east of Holland. The city's mayor, once the head of the Dutch internal security agency (Holland's CSIS), has been waging a long-time fight with squatters in this city. He blames them for all kinds of problems which are often related to the squatters' struggle against fascists of various kinds.

Since the squatters had demolished a pub, a lawyers office and some government offices to obtain materi-

als for roadblocks, and had stood up successfully against the cops and their teargas, the mayor declared Groningen a war zone and called for drastic measures against squatters everywhere in the country. The Dutch media loved it.

Meanwhile, those arrested kept silent for the most part, refusing to give their name or any other information. Since all had been disguised during the fighting, it was impossible to make any charges stick. In comes Article 140: belonging to a criminal organization (a law devised to prosecute organized crime). Under this law, those arrested can be held for up to one month instead of just two

days, and the defendants have to prove their innocence, as opposed to the court proving their guilt. When the case came to court on July 3, half of the defendants were still being held in jail! The case lasted till July 9 and ended with the prosecutor demanding 9 month jail terms for all defendants. All but two were given 6 weeks based on time served; the other two got two months and have since been released. The article 140 charges didn't stick.

All over Europe fascism is on the rise. If you are a radical activist, you have to prove that you don't belong to a criminal organization. This is United Europe 1992.

Final ROM Demo This Saturday

With Monday, August 6 being the last day of the racist Into the Heart of Africa exhibit, the Coalition for the Truth About Africa hosts its final demonstration this Saturday, Aug. 4 at 12 noon.

Demonstrations have been held at the Racist Ontario Museum every Saturday for several months to declare the anger members of Toronto's Black community feel towards the racist and pro-colonialist/imperialist tone of the exhibit. Attendance at the demonstrations has reached well over 100 at times. After one Saturday demonstration the Coalition showed its solidarity with the struggle of Native peoples by

joining in an illegal march through downtown Toronto in protest of the recent police attacks against the Mohawks in Oka, Quebec.

There has been considerable police harassment of the demonstrations as a whole and particularly against the organizers and certain members of the Coalition which has resulted in trumped-up charges being laid against 11 individuals.

Hopefully unprecedented numbers will be present this Saturday to harass the Racist Ontario Museum one last time and show support for the ROM eleven.

INSIDE OUT

Prisoners in Washington state have been publishing their own newsletter from inside, Prison Legal News, which is a good blend of useful news for prisoners and info from the political prisoners front. The prisoners asked the Anarchist Black Cross in Oxford, England, and Toronto to help them mail it to international addresses. Toronto has now mailed out the first three issues for them; however each mailout and printing costs us money. People who wish to support the organizing efforts of imprisoned activists, please donate money to the Anarchist Black Cross, P.O. Box 6326 Stn A, Toronto Ontario, M5W 1P7, and earmark it for the Prison Legal News project.

Police Persecute Poll Tax Protesters

ENGLAND – The British ruling class is unhappy with having its power challenged as it has been in the popular anti-poll tax movement. This grass-roots revolt against a tax which unfairly charges everyone the same regardless of income (much like our own GST!) has been a thorn in the side of the government, and was an even bigger pain during the riots which graced our TV screens over here this spring.

Since then, the police have launched Operation Carnaby, the biggest operation ever mounted by them. One hundred and thirty seven officers are working their way through 30,000 photographs and 90 hours of video from the demonstration. It's backed up by a special 'riot prosecution [persecution?—ed] service' which has 13 lawyers and 10 administrative staff working full time to speed the cases to court. Already since the initial 396 were arrested on the day of the riot, a further 72 have been charged and more can be expected. The role of the police and the judiciary has never been clearer. In the year when the increase in the crime rate—and that of anti-social crime in particular—has soared to its highest level since the war, they have shown their priorities.

But Operation Carnaby is only the basis of a larger police campaign. Sometimes using the pretext of photographic evidence from the demonstration, sometimes in acts of blatant harassment, anti-poll tax activists are being raided and questioned. Known political activists have been raided and having their photos matched against

those taken at Trafalgar Square. While at present the raids are sporadic 'fishing expeditions', it must be considered that they are laying the ground work for a concerted campaign against the anti-poll tax movement.

Although some supposed 'anti-poll tax' elements are willing to turn in those suspected of rioting (such as the Labour party and Militant Tendency trotskyists) (source: Counter Information), the movement on the ground is more than

willing to defend its own. The Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign (TSDC) was set up on May 3 involving defendants, lawyers, and supporters. It is an independent organization run by and accountable to those arrested, all of whom it unconditionally supports. The show trials will likely be starting this summer, and the movement needs support. Many of us in Canada, even including liberal news commentators, were inspired by the anti-poll tax resistance; many suggested we give our own government a taste of the same medicine. For those who want to show further solidarity, we can donate to the defense of those arrested in London by sending money to the Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign, c/o Haldane Society Lawyers, Panther House, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1, England.

Violent Homophobia (cont. from page 1)

identification "brutally smashed" the crowd without warning at a midday sit-in on June 16. They injured at least 70 people, hospitalising 12, in full view of press and passerbys. One suffered a herniated testicle and required surgery.

The protestors had hoped to hand deliver their demands to a police representative. The police had originally agreed to this meeting as a bargain to disperse the crowd of 800 gathered at a demo the day before.

The police record in Montreal sounds all too familiar to Torontonians. A demo was planned for the 519 Church park on Sun June 29 in sympathy with one in Montreal.

Charlene Nero from the Concordia Women's Collective said, as a result of the violence, hundreds of

lesbians and gays were struck (so to speak) by the realization that homophobia is not just an esoteric concept spouted by seasoned politicians but a blatant and painful reality.

As a result, hundreds are mad and getting involved for the first time ever. The newly-formed Lesbians and Gays Against Violence and Coalition Against Police Violence are demanding all charges be dropped, an independent inquiry into the incident and seats for gays and lesbians on the province's police-minority relations committee.

People hope to use the next few weeks to learn how to work together as a newly enlarged and political community — while resting and nursing their wounds ... and resisting police attacks wholeheartedly

GREENS TURN YELLOW

In West Berlin, the Berlin affiliate of the Greens (known as the Alternative List) has negotiated a coalition with the Social Democrats (SPD.) Having already sacrificed the principles which originally distinguished social democrats from capitalists, the SPD has

now forced the Greens to do the same. The agreement renounced many fundamental Green positions throughout the 1980s, most notably their attitude toward the West Berlin occupying powers and NATO. Aside from a few ministerial posts, the only substantive "concessions" won from the SPD mostly involved civil rights for immigrants. March municipal elections in the state of Hesse resulted in similar SPD-Green coalitions in Frankfurt and other cities.

This shift toward Realpolitik within the Greens has caused many of those who believed in the movement's original principles to consider leaving the movement. Rainer Trampert, who abandoned plans to run for an Executive Committee position because he sees no place for his views within the party, comments: "those who want to be a state executive in imperialism can do so only in the preferred framework—the acceptance of capitalism, support for the national economy in its worldwide operations, support the use of state power against trouble-making elements, working within NATO and its strategies. At this point, the Greens die off as an opposition. He predicts that the social democrats will require even more concessions from the Greens in future. (*Left Green Notes*.)

It seems that any leftist political party trying to run in a capitalist system will abandon its positions when it gets within smelling distance of power. This is why it's a mistake for the Greens and other splinter parties in Canada to waste energy trying to win seats in parliament.

Mohawk Solidarity

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fund will be forwarded through several different sources. The success of the fund so far is a clear indication that people support the right of Native people to self-determination and that the Canadian government's attempts to criminalize the movement are falling largely on deaf ears. To donate to that fund, send cheques or deposit in person to the Defense Fund for Mohawk Sovereignty, account #2638, c/o Bread and Roses Credit Union, 348 Danforth Ave. Suite 211, Toronto Ontario, M4K 1N8, Canada, or phone 921-0437 for info.

Ecomedia Toronto

Ecomedia is an international "wire service" that acts as an alternative to regular news services. We focus on news and often censored information on autonomous and anarchist resistance and analysis of current events.

Ecomedia Toronto is a local office involved in three main projects: a radio show every Wednesday on CKLN 88.1 FM between 7 and 8 pm on the "Word of Mouth" program; also another radio spot at 12:15pm Fridays on CIUT 89.5 FM; and the bulletin in your hands. Published bi-weekly and free at locations around the city; subscriptions are \$15/yr (26 issues) mailed monthly to cut costs. Order from the address on the front with cheques or M.O.'s payable to Ecomedia.

Three Million Workers Strike Against Natal Violence

The expansion of Inkatha "impis" or vigilante groups into the Witswatersrand area of South Africa comes on the heels of an ANC/COSATU/UDF alliance call for a national stayaway (one-day general strike) which took place July 2 in protest of the continuing brutal factional violence and intimidation waged against them and unaligned people by Inkatha members in Natal province.

The stayaway was the first move in a planned week of action on Natal which included rallies and marches on police headquarters in Johannesburg, Durban (Natal) and Cape Town.

According to employer bodies, about 95% of workers stayed home in Port Elizabeth (Cape province); between 70% and 90% in Pretoria and about 80% or more in East London. The Mass Democratic Movement estimates that three million workers took part in the protest.

(*The Johannesburg Daily Mail* June 29, July 2,3, 1990 and an independent source in Johannesburg)